

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claim 1.

REMARKS

In response to the reminder in the Official Action, the claim for foreign priority was made in the application datasheet (ADS) submitted with the application at the time of filing. Therefore, the applicant has complied with the requirement to claim foreign priority in this application.

The drawings have been amended to show the features of claims 3-6. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the drawings are respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended, bearing in mind the criticisms thereof in the Official Action. Further, the specification has been amended to correspond to the drawing changes submitted herewith.

Claim 1 has been canceled. Withdrawal of the objection to claims 1 and 2 under 37 C.F.R. §1.75 is respectfully requested.

A Terminal Disclaimer has been made of record. Withdrawal of the rejection under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting is respectfully requested.

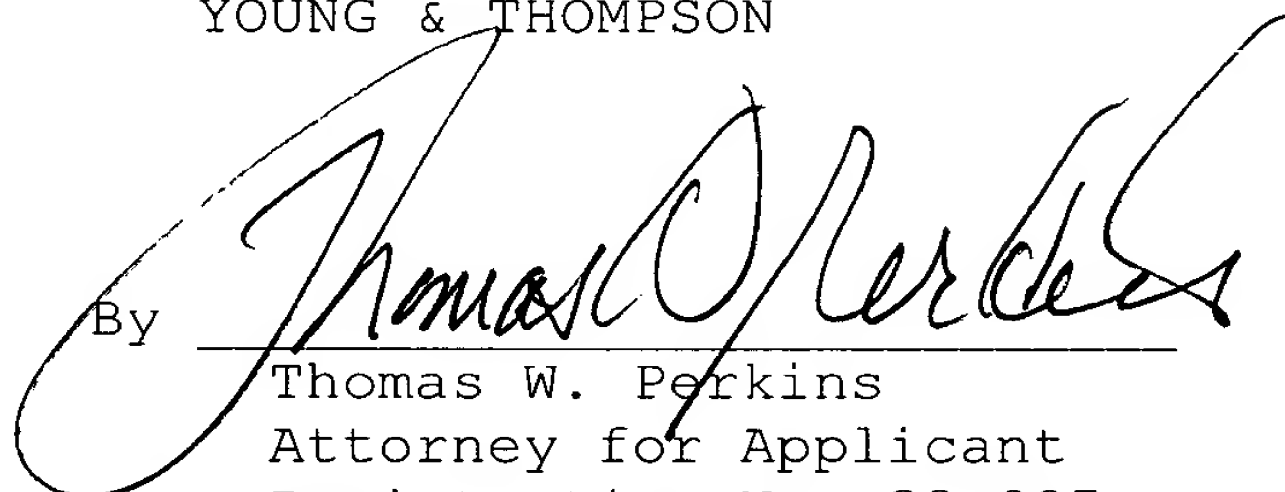
In view of the present amendment, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for

allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Respectfully submitted,

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June 12, 2003

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, the third paragraph was amended as follows:

--At many farms it is common practice to try to exclude contamination through shoes and/or boots by placing open containers with disinfection fluids at the entrances. Visitors can disinfect their shoes and [boorts] boots by 'dipping' their feet into the container filled with disinfection liquid. Many of these containers are cut out plastic jerrycans which contain variable quantities of liquid that pollute quickly and in which visitors are almost unable to disinfect their shoes or boots without running the risk of getting wet feet.--

Page 4, the last paragraph was amended as follows:

--Further embodiments of the present invention are also possible. The sleeve may further include a seal in the edge of the sleeve along one or more sides, preferably the shorter sides, such as shown in Figure 2. The seal may be in the form of a piece of foam rubber, optionally recycled foam rubber. The seal causes a more narrow connection between the sleeve and the core which may help to prevent animals from stumbling when they step forward to leave the mat at the front side or when they step backward to leave the mat at the back side again.--

Page 5, the first paragraph was amended as follows:

--The sleeve may also be provided with eyes (such as shown in Figure 3) or a suspension frame, such as a tape. This allows the mat to be suspended, which simplifies storage, drying, and transport.--

Page 5, the second paragraph was amended as follows:

--The core may further include a strip of stiff material (Figure 4), such as polyvinylchloride (PVC). The strip may be placed inside the core along one or more sides, preferably one or both of the long sides, to increase stiffness of the core. This prevents the core from "jumping" out of the sleeve, which might otherwise occur under strenuous use.--

Page 5, the third paragraph was amended as follows:

--With reference to Figure 5, the [The] mat may also include a reservoir sealed at a bottom of the sleeve to store liquid. The reservoir may be filled with foam. Liquid will be sucked into the reservoir when the core is empty, optionally through use of a piston mechanism,. When the core is depressed, liquid will be sprayed from the reservoir via a pipe made from a soft material onto the object being cleaned, such as the claw of an animal.--